



# MERRIMAC

## Essex County



[NARRATIVE](#)  
[GEOGRAPHY](#)  
[GOVERNMENT](#)  
[DEMOGRAPHICS](#)  
[HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS](#)  
[TRANSPORTATION](#)  
[CULTURE AND RECREATION](#)  
[MISCELLANEOUS](#)



## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

The Town of Merrimac was first settled by Europeans in the late 1650's, and the colonists' main crop was corn. As the town grew, Merrimac residents also pursued maritime trades, fishing for salmon and sturgeon and shipbuilding as well as acting as the distribution point for sugar and molasses from the West Indian trade. By the 19th century, the principal manufacturing activity was carriage making with thirty-one different carriage factories in town.

The town's eventual growth, however, was residential and by the Second World War, Merrimac was principally a residential community. In 1955 there were 308 people employed in Merrimac, 39% in manufacturing, 24% in transportation, 16% in retail and wholesale and 12% in construction. The bulk of the town's 5,100 population worked elsewhere.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



# GEOGRAPHY

---

## Location

Northeastern Massachusetts, bordered by Haverhill on the southwest, the state of New Hampshire on the northwest and north, Amesbury on the east, and West Newbury on the south. Merrimack is 37 miles north of Boston; 78 miles south of Portland, Maine; and 254 miles from New York City.

**Total Area:** 8.83 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 8.53 sq. miles

**Population:** 5,166

**Density:** 606 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Haverhill Station)

Normal temperature in January.....24.7°F

Normal temperature in July.....72.5°F

Normal annual precipitation.....44.4"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Haverhill, Newburyport West

## Regional Planning Agency

Merrimack Valley Region

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Lawrence



# GOVERNMENT

---

## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (978) 346-8862

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Open Town Meeting

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1876

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	3,085		
Democrats	784	25.4	%
Republicans	528	17.1	%
Other parties	1	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	1,772	57.4	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Merrimac town, Essex County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	6,138	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	6,138	100.0
Male.....	2,988	48.7	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	55	0.9
Female.....	3,150	51.3	Mexican.....	8	0.1
Under 5 years.....	447	7.3	Puerto Rican.....	15	0.2
5 to 9 years.....	526	8.6	Cuban.....	2	-
10 to 14 years.....	524	8.5	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	30	0.5
15 to 19 years.....	400	6.5	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	6,083	99.1
20 to 24 years.....	188	3.1	White alone.....	6,002	97.8
25 to 34 years.....	693	11.3	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	1,235	20.1	Total population.....	6,138	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	935	15.2	In households.....	6,104	99.4
55 to 59 years.....	301	4.9	Householder.....	2,233	36.4
60 to 64 years.....	214	3.5	Spouse.....	1,403	22.9
65 to 74 years.....	390	6.4	Child.....	2,067	33.7
75 to 84 years.....	217	3.5	Own child under 18 years.....	1,653	26.9
85 years and over.....	68	1.1	Other relatives.....	200	3.3
Median age (years).....	37.4	(X)	Under 18 years.....	82	1.3
18 years and over.....	4,359	71.0	Nonrelatives.....	201	3.3
Male.....	2,071	33.7	Unmarried partner.....	107	1.7
Female.....	2,288	37.3	In group quarters.....	34	0.6
21 years and over.....	4,202	68.5	Institutionalized population.....	21	0.3
62 years and over.....	797	13.0	Noninstitutionalized population.....	13	0.2
65 years and over.....	675	11.0	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	294	4.8	Total households.....	2,233	100.0
Female.....	381	6.2	Family households (families).....	1,699	76.1
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	907	40.6
One race.....	6,098	99.3	Married-couple family.....	1,403	62.8
White.....	6,032	98.3	With own children under 18 years.....	726	32.5
Black or African American.....	24	0.4	Female householder, no husband present.....	231	10.3
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	7	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	145	6.5
Asian.....	17	0.3	Nonfamily households.....	534	23.9
Asian Indian.....	2	-	Householder living alone.....	443	19.8
Chinese.....	1	-	Householder 65 years and over.....	206	9.2
Filipino.....	-	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	963	43.1
Japanese.....	5	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	501	22.4
Korean.....	3	-	Average household size.....	2.73	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	3.16	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	6	0.1	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	2,295	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	2,233	97.3
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	62	2.7
Samoan.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	-	-	occasional use.....	14	0.6
Some other race.....	18	0.3	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.5	(X)
Two or more races.....	40	0.7	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	3.3	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: <sup>3</sup>			Occupied housing units.....	2,233	100.0
White.....	6,070	98.9	Owner-occupied housing units.....	1,850	82.8
Black or African American.....	35	0.6	Renter-occupied housing units.....	383	17.2
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	18	0.3	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.88	(X)
Asian.....	26	0.4	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.02	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-			
Some other race.....	29	0.5			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



---

# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

---

**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	52
Conventional Federal:	0

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	0
Federal (Section 8):	19



---

# TRANSPORTATION

---

## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

The development of transportation resources in the Merrimack River Valley, where Merrimac is situated, was shaped by the history of the region as a major site of American industrial development in the nineteenth century. The area has exceptionally good highway and rail facilities linking the major cities and towns to each other and to the port, airport, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

### Major Highways

Principal highways are Interstate Route 495 and State Route 110.

### Rail

There is no passenger or freight rail service in Merrimac, but the network of intermodal facilities serving Massachusetts is easily accessible.

### Bus

Merrimac is a member of the Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority (MVRTA), which provides fixed route and paratransit services during July and August only.

### Other

The Lawrence Municipal Airport, a Reliever (RL) facility is located in North Andover. It has 2 asphalt runways 3,901' and 5,000' long. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision.



# CULTURE AND RECREATION

---

## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



# MISCELLANEOUS

---

## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

None

### Long Term Care

None

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

None

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)



---

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

---

The Department of Housing and Community Development would like to thank the many government agencies noted as having provided information for the community profiles. In addition to these agencies, the Regional Transit Authorities assisted with the transportation component of the profiles. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of many city and town officials, which enabled us to include information obtainable only at the local level. DHCD would also like to thank the following individuals for providing special help: Leslie A. Kirwan, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Local Services, Department of Revenue; Richard Shibley, Deputy Secretary of State; Bob Beattie of the Department of Public Health; Charles W. Clifford from the Martha's Vineyard Commission; Dennis Coffey of the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction; Donna Fletcher and Christian Jacqz of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs; James Griffin from the MBTA; Karen Loh from Banker & Tradesman; Todd Maio from the Department of Welfare; Geoffrey Morton from the Election Division of the Secretary of State's Office; Stephen R. Muench of the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission; Rol Murrow of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; Mary Ann Neary and Emmanuelle Fletcher, reference librarians at the State House Library; Jeff Nellhaus from the Department of Education; and George Sanborn, reference librarian at the State Transportation Library.

NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.